



InverNews

The Village With A Heritage

Fall 2012

Referendum on November 6 ballot

Inverness Residents to Vote on Authorizing Village to Pursue Electrical Aggregation

“Electrical aggregation” have become familiar buzz words in the northwest suburbs in recent months. The objective is to save residents money on their electric bills. There are two options for accomplishing that goal: allowing individual homeowners to select their own electrical energy supplier or authorizing elected officials to enter into an agreement with a supplier that would automatically include all residents in the program.

Inverness officials originally opted to leave the choice of an electrical supplier up to each resident. Since April, many residents have contacted the Village to state their preference for a community-wide supplier. In response to those requests, the Village will be asking residents to vote on a referendum on November 6 which will grant elected officials the authority to seek competitive quotes and select a supplier to serve the entire community.

Some common questions include:

What is municipal aggregation of electricity?

Aggregation refers to many customers joining together to form a buying group. In the case of municipal aggregation, the municipality seeks out offers on behalf of its residents to get better pricing than would be available to an individual. The municipality will have the authority to negotiate on behalf of its entire community.

Why is this possible?

The State of Illinois amended its deregulation legislation allowing municipalities to aggregate the electric load of their residents and small businesses. Through deregulation, municipalities can now pursue competitive bids for the energy and move to other suppliers if their pricing is more attractive.

How does it work?

A referendum, which will appear on the November 6, 2012 ballot, must be approved by a majority of voters. The referendum question asks: *Shall the Village of Inverness have the authority to arrange for the supply of electricity for its residential and small commercial retail customers who have not opted out of such program?*

Based on the timing of this process, a Village aggregation program would become effective in early 2013. *(continued on page 3)*

Think Your Emerald Ash Borer Problems Are Over After You Cut Down the Infected Tree? Think Again . . .

You recognize that a tree on your property is infected with Emerald Ash Borers and, sadly, the only choice is to cut the tree down. A tree contractor gives you a price, and offers to cut and stack the wood for use in your fireplace. It seems like the best option for a bad situation.



Wrong.

Removing the tree is only part of the solution. Properly managing the tree debris is almost as important. Even after the tree is cut down, Emerald Ash Borer larvae and adults can live in the stacked wood or large sections of debris. Trees infested with Emerald Ash Borers should only be removed and the debris processed by tree contractors who have entered into a compliance agreement with the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

To avoid the spread of the insect, compliant contractors have agreed to transport the infested tree debris completely covered to contain the adult insect. They have also agreed to process the tree debris in such a way that larvae are destroyed. This reduces the spread of the insect population. To find a list of contractors who have current compliance agreements, visit the Department's website at www.arg.state.il.us/eab/compliance.php.

Election Info to Know: The Presidential Election will be on Tuesday, November 6; polling places will be open from 6:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. Early voting dates are October 22-November 3. For complete information about early voting locations and hours, as well as polling places, go to www.voterinfonet.com



Jack Tatoes



Dear Residents:

On November 6th you will have the opportunity to vote on whether the Village should have the authority to seek an electrical supplier for all residential and small business customers in the Village. This is a process called municipal aggregation. In prior newsletters we encouraged you to explore supplier options. We chose this approach because there was not a consensus that municipal aggregation was a proper role for the Village. Since the municipal aggregation referenda results last April, we began to receive an increasing number of inquiries and requests from you seeking us to pursue municipal aggregation.

In response, we have decided to give you an opportunity to vote on the matter. This decision to place the referendum question before you was also prompted by the City of Chicago's decision to pursue municipal aggregation and the potential this could have on the supplier market and future ComEd rates.

While the Village cannot predict what the aggregated rates will be should you give us the authority to pursue municipal aggregation, it appears that there was a 1 cent per kWh between the average municipal aggregation rate last April and the rate you could have obtained on your own from an alternative supplier. I would encourage you to review your past electrical bills to calculate how much you would save with such a rate differential. There are a number of websites that you can visit to find out more information. Two that I find useful are www.pluginillinois.org and www.citizenutilityboard.org. Please visit these sites so that you can make an informed decision about whether municipal aggregation is in your best interests.

Finally, it is with a great deal of sadness that I inform you that a member of the Inverness "family" passed away in July. Ellen Norden was a dedicated and long tenured employee of the Village, holding a number of positions during her 17 years of service to the Village and its residents. Ellen was well liked by everybody because of her warmth, friendly personality, kindness and compassion. She will be missed.

Sincerely,

Jack Tatoes, Mayor

Haven't Drained Your Swimming Pool Yet?

When chlorinated water from swimming pools is discharged directly to surface waters such as wetlands and streams, it has an adverse impact on local water quality, as well as being toxic to wildlife and fish. So before you drain your pool, de-chlorinate the pool water through mechanical or chemical means. These products are readily available at local stores.

Drain the pool over a period of several days across your lawn using these guidelines: (1) Allow the pool water to sit at least two days while receiving a reasonable amount of sunlight, and without further addition of chlorine or bromine. Test the water after two days to be sure it is below 0.1 mg/l. (2) Direct the pool discharge across your lawn, not down your driveway or into nearby storm sewer inlets, which lead directly to wetlands, streams, lakes or rivers.

Water discharged from a pool may not be discharged during periods of rain; may not be drained into any septic field; must not create a nuisance; and must be drained onto the pool owner's property without flowing onto any adjoining property.

Calendar of Events

November

- 13 Village Board
- 20 Plan Commission
- 21 Zoning Board

December

- 11 Village Board
- 18 Plan Commission
- 19 Zoning Board

January

- 8 Village Board
- 15 Plan Commission
- 16 Zoning Board

Electric Aggregation Referendum (continued from page 1)

How will this affect ComEd?

ComEd will continue to bill you for supply and delivery of your electricity, just as it does currently, and will continue to respond to power outages. Residents should call ComEd for any issues with disruption of their power supply.

How will electric aggregation affect me?

If an aggregation program is created, all residents and small businesses will be automatically enrolled in the program unless they "opt-out." Before the aggregation program begins, all residents would receive notice to opt out of the program with details of the new rate and term.

Regardless of whichever option residents and businesses chose, ComEd remains the utility provider delivering electricity to homes and businesses. Residents would continue to receive a ComEd bill and would continue to call ComEd in case of an outage or service need. The only difference would be a change in the supply rate of the electricity bill.

Will I receive two bills?

No, you will continue to receive one bill from ComEd. You will continue to send your monthly payment to ComEd.

Will the aggregation program affect the reliability of ComEd service?

No. The aggregation program will have no impact upon the reliability of service you receive from ComEd.

Will I still be a ComEd customer?

Yes. ComEd will continue to provide the distribution of electricity, and will still be responsible for delivery services such as reading meters, maintaining equipment and power lines and responding to outages.

What if I have already selected another electric supplier?

If you have already switched to another electric energy supplier on your own, you will not be included in the aggregation program. You may, however, cancel your current contract and join the Village's program. You are advised to first determine if your current supplier would charge an early termination fee to cancel. You may also wait until your current contract expires, at which time you may call the Village and ask to be enrolled in the Villages aggregation program.

Residents are encouraged to make an informed decision on the issue by checking websites including www.pluginillinois.org, www.illinois.gov/ipa and www.citizensutilityboard.org

Enjoy Your Outdoor Fire, But Supervise it at All Times

Both Cook County and the Village of Inverness prohibit open burning of leaves, landscape waste and garbage.

Open burning is permitted for recreational purposes such as an outdoor fire to cook food, or a properly contained campfire or fire pit. Fires in approved containers should be located not less than 15 feet from any structure. Approved containers are defined as gas or charcoal grills or outdoor fireplace or fire pits.

Open burning of any kind should be constantly attended until the fire has been completely extinguished. Fire extinguishing equipment such as dirt, sand, or a garden hose should be available at all times for immediate use.



NEWS TO KNOW

Halloween hours: Trick or treat hours in Inverness will be from 3:00-7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 31. A few important reminders from the Inverness Police Department:

- NO treats should be eaten until it has been inspected by an adult.
- Discard any unwrapped items.
- Check all food wrappers for signs of tampering.
- Costumes should be made of brightly colored or reflective material, so that your trick-or-treater can be easily seen.

Parents, please instruct your children to trick or treat only at homes where the porch light is on.

Remember to 'fall back' on November 4:

Daylight Savings Time ends at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 4.

Remember to change the batteries in all of your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors when you change your clocks. It's timely, life-saving advice!



Electronics recycling: To make it easy and convenient for residents to properly dispose of home electronics, the Village has arranged to pay Groot Industries for the cost of picking up and recycling used electronics. Items such as televisions, monitors, printers, fax machines, computers and tablets, electronic keyboards, video recorders, video game consoles, and portable digital music players will be picked up at the curb on your regular garbage collection day, but residents must call Groot in advance at (800) 244-1977 to schedule the pickup.

Holiday Garbage Pickup Day Changes

The upcoming holidays will bring changes to the regular garbage pickup days in Inverness.

Thanksgiving: garbage pickup will be on **Friday, November 23.**

Christmas: garbage pickup will be on **Friday, December 28.**

New Year's: garbage pickup will be on **Friday, January 4**



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1400 Baldwin Road
Inverness, Illinois 60067

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847/358-8858 fax

Website: www.villageofinverness.org

Village Hall Hours:
Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-4:30 PM

Jack Tatoes. Mayor
Laurie C. White. Clerk

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Snow Season Is About To Sneak Up on Us



With winter weather around the corner, this is the time to take a look around your property and remove all landscaping obstructions -- such as boulders, stones and tree limbs -- from the right-of-way. Such items can pose a significant safety hazard for Village snow plowing crews.

While crews always do their best to protect lawn areas and mailboxes adjacent to the roadway, we ask you to report any damage caused by snow plows within 24 hours so that we can investigate and make repairs as warranted.

Residents are reminded never to shovel or plow snow from the driveway into the street. Snow from driveways that is deposited on the roadways can become compacted and icy, posing a significant danger to both vehicles and pedestrians.

We recommend removing snow from your driveway after the plow has made its last pass. Snow plows are designed to push snow to the outside edge of the road, which means the plow will inevitably leave snow at the bottom of your driveway. You can save yourself both time and frustration by waiting to clear the bottom of your driveway until the plow has made its final pass on your street.

Check Your Mailbox

Mailboxes are unintended casualties of the snow wars. Snow thrown from the snowplow blade can be wet and heavy. The Village does not repair mailboxes damaged under these circumstances. Now is the time to check for weakened posts and loose mailboxes. A structurally sound and properly maintained mailbox is the best way to survive the winter.



Dig Into These Ditch Maintenance Reminders

Driveway culverts and the open ditch system are the primary method of storm water management in Inverness. That means that keeping them free of leaves and other debris is essential in order to prevent flooding problems.

Here are two timely reminders to help keep the storm water flowing.

- Inspect your ditches and driveway culverts on a regular basis. Keep them free of leaves or other debris that could obstruct the flow of storm water.
- If your sump pump discharges into a storm water ditch, now is the time to re-direct it. Warm water from the sump pump can create ice dams in the cold weather months, which can cause flooding. In addition, when the warm water overflows onto the street and freezes, it creates a hazard for motorists and pedestrians alike.

Village Hall Holiday Closings

Thanksgiving: November 22 and 23

Christmas: December 24* and 25

*Clerk's office open 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. to accept nominating papers

New Year's: December 31 and January 1, 2013

